

# AMERICA'S SPEED IN WAR BIG SURPRISE TO JAPAN

Active Participation, Despatch of Troops to France, Conscription and Other Radical Courses Prove Revelation to Nipponese, Who are Now Chided By Own Writers for Inactivity

By ADACHI KINOSUKE  
(In New York Sun)

What the United States has done since she has entered the world war has been at once a shock and a revelation to Japan. It has made her feel a bit ashamed of her own part in the war so far, for one thing.

Compared to the broad and stately statement of the war aims of President Wilson of the United States, writes Dr. Furukawa in the October issue of Chuo-koron, one of the leading magazines of Japan, "the narrowness and smallness of the vision of our own statesmen are indeed beyond all amazement."

America's war activities have made an impression upon Japan—an impression profound and nation wide. All the more so because Japan, to make a clean breast of it, did not believe that the United States would do precisely the things (and so many of them) which America has already done—raising a tremendous army at an almost unimaginable expense and trouble; actually sending her own army to Europe, and still more amazing even than that, the United States sending an army that is really an army, an expeditionary force of more than 200,000 men and more on the way constantly.

There is a time when Japan did not understand America.

Has Been Misreading America

The fact is Japan has been misreading America and the Americans (not quite as badly and persistently perhaps as America has been misreading Japan), but quite vitally enough. Japan for years has been luxuriating herself in that paradise of fool notions that in the United States a bootblack on a street corner is something of a mechanical genius and that every pedler along any old highway was a potential millionaire.

But when it came to the soldier and war business, why, America was so profoundly indifferent to such matters and supremely bored and averse to the mere thought of the thing that she went into a Rip Van Winkle sleep straightaway.

Therefore, when the United States declared war against Germany Japan at once jumped to the conclusion that America would do one and all of the following things, and on a vast and heroic scale, but not very much more:

1. America would loan almost limitless money to the Entente Allies. That would turn her from the debtor nation she had been before the war into the world creditor and naturally bring about the shifting of the financial center of the world from London to New York.

2. America would supply the war materials to her allies in a much more extensive manner than she has done hitherto as a neutral. That would attract more and more wealth to her.

3. America would take advantage of this crisis in the war to wrest the command of the merchant shipping from the great sea powers of the world. She would create a merchant fleet that would at the close of the war sweep the British and the German and the Japanese flags from the four seas.

4. In the process of financing other powers fighting Germany America would continue to absorb more and more of the American securities held by foreign capitalists and consolidate her position as the world banker.

5. She would take the advantage of the prevailing situation in the world commerce—as Japan has been trying to do for so long in her own meager and feeble fashion—to replace the wares of her commercial competitors in the markets of the world, so that the end of the world war would find her in a much more favorable position as a world merchant than she has ever been in her history.

Sending of Army a Shock.

Japan believed that America would do all these things—but to send her own soldiers to Europe and by hundreds of thousands, why, Japan had not the slightest idea of any such thing. Where was the American army anyhow?

Japan simply summarized the views of Dr. Horie, one of the many and ceaselessly writing Japanese economists, expressed in an article in a recent number of the Tokyo. It is, I believe, the views of a large majority of Japanese students of America and of American affairs.

"Even if recruiting of the vast army of the United States works out as smoothly as planned," said the Osaka Asahi as late as September, commenting on the possibility of seeing a great American army in Europe, "what about the training of the men? Whether America can get the expected number of efficient men in so short a time is an exceedingly questionable affair."

And the Asahi is the most popular newspaper in Japan; its daily circulation is more than 400,000 copies, therefore well qualified to take its rank among the great dailies of the United States. It usually voices the popular sentiment of the majority of the people by whom it is favored. At any rate, there is not the slightest doubt that the editorial quoted voiced the popular conception of a large number of Japanese people concerning the American army.

Japanese Bewildered

Then the news of the raising of the American army of over 1,000,000 men almost overnight came to them. More wonderful still came the story of the magic transformation of peace loving American citizens into a thoroughly modern fighting machine. The Japanese did not have time to cover their ears, as they say there; they were simply bewildered.

And the most natural of all this questions in the world under the circumstances begin to rise among them: "Americans are in the war but for a few months. We have been in it for years now, almost from the very start. And 200,000 American soldiers are already in France; countless more are backing the decks of transports ready to brave the submarine. America,

whom we thought would never fight, the United States which we thought had no army at all! And we who are rather prouder than not of our fighting men and fighting spirit, we, why, we are right here at home. And it is not because we lack invitations from Europe to come over and do our bit either. Why?"

This is not the first time that the question of sending the Japanese army to Europe has been discussed among our people. Never before, however, has it been seriously discussed or widely as a practical possibility. It is so discussed now and by people who had laughed at the very thought of the thing.

Feasible to Transport Troops?

In its enthusiasm the Asahi goes so far as to cry down the objection to the whole scheme based on the lack of transportation facilities fit to carry anything like an adequate body of the Japanese army over to Europe. It reminds the reader that several thousands of Russian soldiers were transported to Europe through the Japanese port of Tairen—the old Dalney of the Russian memory—it points out the present and living fact that many thousands of the Chinese coolies are even this very day being transported from Shanghai to Europe.

In this, of course, the Asahi allows the quick witted popular editorial pace to run away with the sombre logic of the actual fact.

Because less than 100,000 Russian soldiers—at the outside—have been successfully transported from a Manchurian port overseas to France, or because a few thousand Chinese coolies have been carried in a similar manner to the fighting front in Europe, it does not in the least justify anybody, even the popular newspaper editor, to jump to the conclusion that 1,000,000 soldiers of Japan, with all their fighting equipment—arms, munitions and food, yes, food, a large portion of food anyway (for the Japanese would find it almost impossible to fight up to his high standard on anything but the food to which he has been accustomed)—can be transported over 10,000 miles of seas.

It does not seem to occur to an editorial writer on a popular newspaper like the Asahi that it takes ships to carry an army of 1,000,000 men from Japan to Europe. But it should. It does not seem to occur to him to look into how much tonnage Japan can command for any such enterprise, but it should.

At the end of last year the official figures of all the Japanese merchant fleet were 2158 steamers, of the aggregate tonnage of 1,696,531. But of the number there were only 447 vessels above 1000 tons, with the total tonnage of 1,431,077. A liberal estimate of the ships which the Japanese government can commandeer at present for transporting its army to France would not exceed 300,000 tons. Allowing less than 5 tons of shipping per soldier with all his equipment, it would take more than two and a half years to transport a Japanese army of 1,000,000 men from the Far East to the fighting front in Europe.

What about the trans-Siberian line?

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The commissioners from the United States to Russia did not come back with an abnormally exhilarating picture of the condition of Russian railways. The tremendous and ever mounting accumulation of freight at Vladivostok does not speak eloquently of the ability of the Siberian line to handle an army of a million men.

With all that, the almost incredible and really magnificent achievement of the United States in whipping together a vast and valiant army and sending it to the very trenches of France has played like a lash upon a large section of the people of Japan.

Baron Togo, a member of the house of peers, who had made a tour of observation all through the fighting front in Europe not so long ago, denounces the war efforts of his own country as ridiculously meagre and the sacrifices Japan has gone through because of the world war as utterly negligible compared to those of any of her allies. In his comprehensive article published in the Taiyo he presents several channels through which Japan might help the cause of the Entente Allies. But he opens the article with a bold and scathing statement that Japan is lagging behind in the discharge of her war duties; that she is not doing what she should in the war.

In the light of what the other countries of the Entente Allies are doing Japan seems to look upon the world war as upon a fire on the other side of a river. Her attitude appears cold.

Japan has prospered through the war. She has produced several varieties of warlike munitions (millionaires) and everywhere the country is bathing in waves of gold. On the other hand, all this seems to have resulted in arousing envy and suspicion on the part of her allies. And that is most regrettable.

By far the ablest presentation of the

effect of the American entry into the world war upon Japan was made by Mr. Kichitaka Sugawara, a member of the house of peers and an ex-vice minister of finance, in his recent contribution to the Taiyo. Mr. Sugawara was in the United States in the early part of this year and an interview with him which The Sunday Sun published on April 22, 1917, commanded a wide interest not only among the financial circles in the United States but in Japan and China.

"That the time of bringing about peace will be dictated along all the practical aspects of the war by the will of the United States is as incontestable as that the war will end in the victory of the Entente Allies," is the emphatic manner he registers his faith in the title role America is destined to play.

"Among our own people there are very few who can read the national character of the American people with an understanding eye. It is an extreme blunder to think that the American ever rushes into individualism and is partial to materialistic tendencies. The strength, one might almost say the violence, of the spring of sacrifice that is in him and the intensity of his enthusiasm for public service and heroic justice are beyond our admiration and wonder. We should learn many practical lessons from the attitude of the United States."

**MANY WOMEN SPIES IN WASHINGTON MENACE NATION**

CHICAGO, Ill.—"Women spies in Washington are a great menace to the nation. There are many of them operating there," said John Barrett, director-general of the pan-American union in Washington and former United States ambassador to the Argentine, speaking here before the Woman's club.

## BRITISH IN U. S. TO BE DRAFTED

NEW YORK, N. Y., Nov. 27. — A warning to British and Canadian residents in the United States that they cannot escape doing their duty while their fellow citizens in Great Britain and Canada are being drafted for service and their neighbors in the United States, who are citizens, are being drafted here, was issued tonight by Brigadier-General W. A. White, head of the British-Canadian recruiting mission in this country.

"The mission has established recruiting depots through the country," General White said in a statement, "to give Britishers and Canadians an opportunity to volunteer for service through these depots. Some thirteen thousand men have been enlisted and sent forward to the British and Canadian armies."

"Pending the completion of the conventions which it is expected Secretary Lansing will submit to Congress," he added, "a very active campaign is to be carried on all over the United States through the British and Canadian recruiting mission. This will give all Britons and Canadians opportunity to volunteer for service instead of waiting to be drafted."

No man can do better than to fight for the United States. And it is better that he do that fighting in the enemy's country than in his own. Our soldiers will be fighting today in France in order that they or their sons may not be fighting some years hence in America to defend America.—Minneapolis Journal.

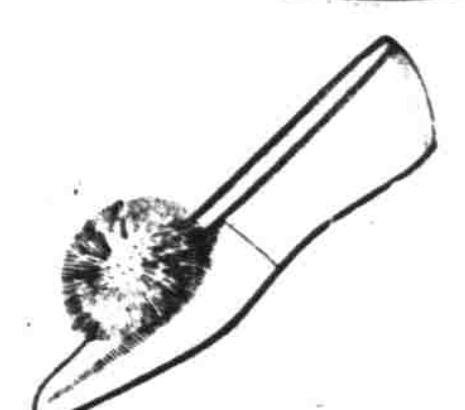
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